

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, 32611

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

May 20, 1975

George Balasz
George Hughes

Dear Messrs. George:

Please excuse the delay in my answering your letters about the new tags. Although our order for this year's supply of tags has gone in, it seemed until a couple of days ago that I would be able to find a few hundred dollars to buy into your deal, and we actually had typed an order for 2500 tags. Now, however, like many of the University of Florida's fiscal prospects, the expected funds appear to have dissolved, and I have no way to finance an advance order that would give you the help you need.

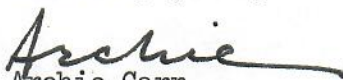
If my tags appeared to be suffering the fate yours are I would mortgage the house to get the new alloy. You will be surprised to hear, however, that I still don't see any sign of undue deterioration. What do you think the cause of this difference could be? We have been getting increasingly frequent returns of tags, mostly from the burgeoning (and clearly suicidal) Nicaraguan turtle processing plants. The tags come back from all years, and erosion is simply not dramatic.

What could the reason for the different reaction be? Indo-Pacific water chemistry? Indo-Pacific turtle-serum chemistry? If you get any ideas let me know. They might bear on the campaign to collect cryptic variations in Chelonia for conservation strategy.

Meanwhile I sincerely regret the impecuniousness that blocks my joining you in the order. If the chance to help recurs in a few months I may be better able to take advantage of it.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Archie Carr
Graduate Research Professor

AC:gs